

We claim:

- 1    1.    A vessel, comprising:  
2        a frame; and  
3        a bay disposed in the frame and operable to receive a mission module.
- 1    2.    The vessel of claim 1, further comprising an interface operable to be coupled  
2    between the frame and the mission module.
- 1    3.    The vessel of claim 2 wherein the interface is operable to facilitate the exchange  
2    of fuel between the frame and the module.
- 1    4.    The vessel of claim 2 wherein the interface is operable to facilitate the exchange  
2    of water between the frame and the module.
- 1    5.    The vessel of claim 2 wherein the interface is operable to facilitate the exchange  
2    of personnel between the frame and the module.
- 1    6.    The vessel of claim 2 wherein the interface is operable to facilitate the exchange  
2    of electrical power between the frame and the module.
- 1    7.    The vessel of claim 2 wherein the interface is operable to facilitate transmission  
2    of electronic communication signals between the frame and the mission module.
- 1    8.    The vessel of claim 1 wherein the frame comprises a foil-assisted twin hull.
- 1    9.    The vessel of claim 1 wherein the frame comprises a landing pad for an aerial  
2    vehicle.
- 1    10.   A mission module, comprising  
2        a body operable to be received by a vessel;  
3        a substantially self-contained mission-module system; and

an interface that facilitates communication between the vessel and the mission module system.

11. The mission module of claim 10 wherein the mission-module system comprises a substantially self-contained remote mine-hunting system.

12. The mission module of claim 10 wherein the mission-module system comprises a substantially self-contained littoral anti-submarine system.

13. The mission module of claim 10 wherein the mission-module system comprises a substantially self-contained special operation support system.

14. The mission module of claim 10 wherein the mission-module system comprises a substantially self-contained logistics support system.

15. The mission module of claim 10 wherein the mission module system comprises a substantially self-contained maritime intercept system.

16. The mission module of claim 10 wherein the mission module system comprises a substantially self-contained intelligence/surveillance/reconnaissance system.

17. The mission module of claim 10, further comprising:

a propulsion system; and

a remote control device operable to communicate with the vessel such that the vessel controls the propulsion and maneuvering systems to facilitate acquisition of the mission module by the vessel.

- 1 18. A vessel, comprising:  
2 a bay operable to receive a mission module; and  
3 an interface operable to facilitate the coupling of the mission module to the  
4 vessel.
- 1 19. A vessel system, comprising  
2 a vessel;  
3 a bay disposed in the vessel; and  
4 a mission module disposed in the bay.
- 1 20. The system of claim 19 wherein the mission module comprises a substantially  
2 self-contained remote mine-hunting system.
- 1 21. The system of claim 19 wherein the mission module comprises a substantially  
2 self-contained littoral anti-submarine system.
- 1 22. The system of claim 19 wherein the mission module comprises a substantially  
2 self-contained special operation support system.
- 1 23. The system of claim 19 wherein the mission module comprises a substantially  
2 self-contained logistics support system.
- 1 24. The system of claim 19 wherein the mission module comprises a substantially  
2 self-contained maritime intercept system.
- 1 25. The system of claim 19 wherein the mission module comprises a substantially  
2 self-contained intelligence/surveillance/reconnaissance system.
- 1 26. The system of claim 19 wherein the vessel comprises an aircraft.
- 1 27. The system of claim 19 wherein the vessel comprises a land vehicle.

- 1 28. The system of claim 19 wherein the vessel comprises a sailing ship.
- 1 29. The system of claim 19 wherein the vessel comprises a space ship.
- 1 30. A method for manufacturing a vessel, the method comprising
- 2 forming a frame having a bay operable to receive one of a plurality of different
- 3 types of mission modules; and
- 4 forming an interface disposed in the bay that is operable to facilitate the coupling
- 5 between each one of the plurality of different types of mission modules and the frame.